AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 has been amended to be labeled as "Prior Art."

Attachment: Replacement sheet

REMARKS

Claim 1-22 have been examined, with all claims rejected.

Figure 1 has been labeled as "Prior Art."

Claims 11 and 15-17 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Regarding claims 11 and 17, Applicant has amended the claims to replace "time" with "synch." Regarding claim 17, the "transmission clock signal" in lines 13 and 15 are different. This is because the claim recites "a transmission clock line via which the first semiconductor chip transmits a transmission clock signal to the second semiconductor chip, or the second semiconductor chip transmits a transmission clock signal to the first semiconductor chip." (Emphasis added). The claim then goes on to recite "wherein the second semiconductor chip transmits the diagnostic data in synch with this transmission clock signal." Thus, "this" transmission clock signal in line 18 refers to the transmission clock signal in either of lines 13 line 15. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arslain (U.S. Patent No. 6,366,153) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art (hereinafter "AAPA"). Claims 13-22 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arslain in view of AAPR and Hastings et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,772,251).

The applied references do not teach or suggest a line for transmitting load control data and pilot data, as required by the claimed invention. Conventional devices transmit load control data using a dedicated pulse-width modulated signal transmitted on a dedicated line. The claimed invention is advantageous over conventional devices in that data to be transferred between the semiconductor chips can be transmitted via a small number of lines and in full under all circumstances. That is, the load control data and the pilot data are transmitted on the same transmission channel.

In Arslain, the load control data are transmitted via a first line (connection between processor 102 and buffer/driver 112 of programmable driver 100), and the pilot data and the diagnostic data are transmitted via a second line (connection between processor 102 and serial interface 106 of programmable driver 100). See Fig. 1 and the corresponding description, particularly, column 2, line 57-58 and 63-65.

In the prior art described in the present application, the pilot data are transmitted via a first line (DATA1a), the diagnostic data are transmitted via a second line (DATA1b), and the load control data are transmitted via a third line (DATA2). See Fig. 1, and the corresponding description, particularly paragraphs 22 and 25.

Again, the applied references do not suggest transmitting the load control data and the pilot data over a same transmission channel. The claims are therefore patentable over the applied references.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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